ICANN *APAC* NEWSLETTER

Editor's foreword

It has been a busy period for ICANN here in APAC. To accommodate all the updates to share with you, we've decided to create sub-sections within the sections. Within Event Highlights, you'll now see Feature Stories, articles From the Community, stories from ICANN APAC Hub and News-In-Brief. We hope that this gives better context to the stories.

There is a lot of work around the IANA Stewardship Transition so we've kept the Spotlight on this important and crucial focus.

Lastly, a call out again for suggestions for stories you'd like us to feature or feedback on what you like/dislike in our newsletter. Our ears are open. Feel free to drop me an email anytime.

Enjoy reading!

Liana and APAC Hub team

Event Highlights

FEATURE STORY: ICANN at APRICOT 2015

(Clockwise) Elise Gerich delivering opening keynote; Cooperation SIG panelists; Champika conducting DNS/DNSSEC workshop; Kuek giving ICANN update

The highlight in March for the Asia Pacific region was the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) 2015 conference in Fukuoka, Japan (24 February - 6 March 2015).

Apart from ICANN meetings, this is **the** regional conference of the year, which saw a gathering of 800 delegates from over 50 economies. Of note, APRICOT's social media posts reached over 1.7 million people through Twitter feeds! Congratulations to our local host, Asia Pacific Internet Association (APIA), All Partners Access Network (APAN) and Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC).

From ICANN, we are very proud to have contributed by providing training in the DNS/DNSSEC Workshop, and participating in the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD), AP* (a grouping of Asia Pacific Internet organisations to share information and identify possible areas of cooperation) retreat, and APNIC meetings. ICANN board members were also in attendance and participated actively in the inaugural APNIC Cooperation Special Interest Group (SIG) panel session as well as discussions on the IANA Stewardship Transition.

Elise Gerich, our VP of IANA and Technical Operation also delivered the opening keynote, providing a very well received historical perspective of the evolution of the Internet Numbers Registry system and what led to the distributed system that we have today. If you've missed that, you can watch it here.

FROM THE COMMUNITY: Supporting the community: ISIF winners

We're proud to partner with the community in supporting regional Information Communications Technology (ICT) development, through the Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia). Five winning projects have been announced for the 2015 grants – they include innovative uses of Internet technologies to support communities in Bangladesh through telemedicine, and low cost deployment of wireless networks in Nepal and Vanuatu. Read more.

Deployment of a community-based Hybrid Wireless Network using TV white space and Wi-Fi spectrum in remote valleys around Manaslu Himalaya in Nepal. Photo credit: APNIC

Kuek Yu-Chuang, VP and MD for APAC Hub, says, "We are happy to be able to support these very worthy projects that will help to improve network connectivity in locations such as Nepal and Vanuatu. Like others, we are saddened by the natural disasters that have struck these two countries. If you wish to join us in supporting the reconstruction of these areas, or have ideas on how we can do so as a community, please reach out to us at apachub@icann.org."

FROM THE COMMUNITY: Japanese Community forms Generation Panel

The Generation Panel for the Japanese Label Generation Rules (LGR) for the Root Zone has been seated. Read the announcement here.

Hiro Hotta (fourth from left) with the rest of the Generation Panel

"The success of IDN (Internationalised Domain Names) TLDs (Top-Level Domains) is important for IDNs to be widely and truly accepted. We believe that having a unified rule, the Root LGR (Root Label Generation Rules), where the characteristics of different languages/scripts are appropriately considered and incorporated, will be an important step towards that. We the members of the JGP (Japanese Generation Panel) are happy to be able to contribute to this and to the eventual acceptance of IDNs," commented Hiro Hotta, Chair of JGP.

ICANN APAC HUB: Responding to APAC registrars' training requests

March and April were busy months for Howard Li from Registrar Services. Over the span of two months, he visited nine registrars in Tokyo, Japan; Taipei, Taiwan and Mumbai, India.

In Tokyo, Howard visited Brights Consulting, GMO, Japan Registry Services (JPRS) registrar, Interlink Registry, PSI-Japan and Tekka Technology. The registrars warmly welcomed Howard's on-site office visits. Some of the feedback they shared included requests for registrar training courses.

Howard met up with two registrars in Taipei, namely Net-Chinese and Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC). Discussions with them ranged from ICANN policy clarifications to planning for the future. Similarly, they requested for more registrar trainings to be conducted in the Asia Pacific timezone.

Howard's registrar outreach in Mumbai was held in conjunction with the DNS/DNSSEC workshop (see story below).

Howard will be visiting Australian registrars in the coming month.

ICANN APAC HUB: Fadi meets India stakeholders

Panel session at Digital Pivot to Asia

ICANN President and CEO Fadi Chehadé was in Delhi, India on 9 - 10 March 2015 to meet different stakeholders from government, business, academia and civil society.

Fadi participated in the Digital Pivot to Asia conference organised by The Observer Research Foundation, with a clear message inviting the India stakeholders to get involved in shaping the future of the Internet since the next billion Internet users will be from Asia. Fadi's message was welcomed by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, who also said that India is an important player on global Internet Governance and welcomed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announcement to transition the stewardship of the IANA Functions.

Fadi also held bilateral meetings with key government officials including Minister Ravi Prasad, RS Sharma (Secretary of Communications and Information Technology), Dr Arvind Gupta (Deputy National Security Advisor) and several others. Key local media including Times of India, The Hindu, and The Economic Times, also took the opportunity to interview Fadi on topics ranging from the IANA Stewardship Transition, to India's role in formulating the future of Internet.

ICANN APAC HUB: Stakeholder engagement and capacity building in the Pacific Islands

PITA Annual General Meeting group photo

Savé Vocea, VP, Stakeholder Engagement, Australia and Pacific Islands and Champika Wijayatunga, Regional SSR Engagement Manager, Asia Pacific, spent the last weeks of April in the Pacific Islands for a series of engagements and trainings.

They attended the 9th Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) Annual General Meeting held in Tonga on 22 – 24 April 2015. The event attracted 230 participants from over 30 countries around the Pacific islands. Industry vendors from the satellite, undersea cable and equipment suppliers were also present in an accompanying trade show.

Savé presented ICANN updates on globalisation and services available from the Asia Pacific Hub, the new generic Top-Level Domain program, Internationalised Domain Names and call for support towards the Universal Acceptance work. He also provided an update on the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability work.

Together with Champika, Savé participated in bilateral meetings to discuss ICANN, L-root hosting opportunities and Domain Name System (DNS) security.

Champika and Savé with PITA DNS abuse handling participants

Champika ran a series of capability building trainings. These included a 90-min tutorial on DNS Abuse handling for the PITA delegates; a 1-day training for Law Enforcement Agencies, specifically Tonga Police, Kiribati Police and Fiji Police on Investigating Internet Identifier Systems Abuse and Misuse. These were well received and appreciated and we look forward to more similar trainings in future.

ICANN APAC HUB: Of digital rights and open Internet: RightsCon
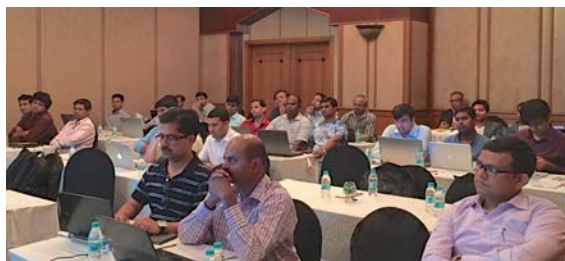

Panel discussion on IANA Stewardship Transition at RightsCon

RightsCon Southeast Asia was held in Manila, the Philippines from 24-25 March 2015. The RightsCon Summit series – well known in the Silicon Valley since 2011 – has become a key event convened around the issue of an open internet. In Manila, the event brought together some 600 experts from governments, business and civil society all over the world to discuss digital rights and the need to maintain a free and open Internet. As ICANN's mission is to support a free and open Internet that is safe, secure and resilient, we are proud to support RightsCon in Southeast Asia, and organised a session on the IANA Stewardship Transition there as well.

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

DNS workshop and registrar outreach in India

We organised a DNS/DNSSEC workshop and a Registrar Outreach in Mumbai India from 16 -18 April 2015, in collaboration with Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN), .IN ccTLD (country-code top-level domain) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). Read Samiran's blog here.

Korea outreach: Chungnam National University

Our youth engagement took us to Korea's Chungnam National University's Department of Computer Engineering on 24 April 2015. Kangsoo Song, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager, met about 35 students to share information on ICANN, how IP addresses and Root Servers work, as well as provided an update on the IANA Stewardship Transition.

APAC Hub webinar
The webinar "**What are Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) and what does it mean to you?**" was held on 9 April 2015, in collaboration with the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organisation (APRALO) as part of the APRALO-APAC Hub Capacity Building Webinar Series. It was led by Sarmad Hussein, IDN Program Senior Manager, and Edmon Chung, Co-Chair of the At-Large IDN Policy working group, with support from APRALO Chair, Siranush Vardanyan and the ICANN At-Large team. If you missed it, you can watch the recording here. Transcripts of the recording are also available at the APRALO Meeting Page courtesy of the At-Large Team.

The next APAC Hub webinar will be held in August. Do let us know if you have any preferred topics.
For more on the APRALO Capacity Building Webinar Series, visit here.

Where else has ICANN APAC been?

Here is a list of other events that we attended:

Dates	Events	Market
4 March	Idea School of Telecom Excellence	*Ahmedabad, India*
9 March	APNIC Regional Meeting	*Bangkok, Thailand*
10 March	Interpol Workshop	*Singapore*
13 March	National Law University - Roundtable on ICANN Accountability	*New Delhi, India*
13 March	ICANN52 Readout Session for Chinese Community	*Beijing, China*
10 April	World Domain Day	*New Delhi, India*
14 April	42nd Japan ICANN Readout	*Tokyo, Japan*
7-12 April	Cyber Secure Pakistan Conference	*Islamabad, Pakistan*
26 April	DigitalCon	*Mumbai, India*
30 April	SSR Roadshow	*Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji*

In the Spotlight

IANA Stewardship Transition

Asia tour

Theresa Swinehart, Senior Advisor to the President on Strategy, was in Asia from 10-13 March 2015, in a three-nation visit: Japan, Korea and China. Together with Adam Peake, Senior Manager, Accountability and the APAC regional team, Theresa met with various business, government and civil society stakeholders to provide updates on and encourage participation in the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability discussions. She also engaged the community through open sessions in each of the capitals. The community participated actively through questions and comments, made possible by the availability of translation into the local languages. Theresa's visit and updates were well received by the community and covered by media in Japan and Korea. We thank Theresa and Adam for the visit and will continue to share updates on the Transition with the community.

ICG new web site and email address
Looking for information on the IANA Stewardship Transition? The IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) has set up a new website www.ianacg.org to be the resource and information-sharing platform for all interested parties. ICG also has a new email address for public comments: icg-forum@ianacg.org.

For public comment: CWG-Stewardship 2nd draft proposal
The Cross Community Working Group to develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal for Naming Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship) released its 2nd draft proposal for public comment on 22 April. Following that, the CWG-Stewardship Chairs hosted four briefing webinars on 24 April and 6-7 May. Closing Date for public comment is **20 May 2015 23:59 UTC**.

For public comment: CCWG-Accountability Work Stream 1 proposal
The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) has proposed enhancements to ICANN's accountability framework, identified as essential to happen or be committed to before the IANA Stewardship Transition takes place. CCWG-Accountability is requesting for community feedback on its proposal. Closing date for public comment is **3 Jun 2015 23:59 UTC**.

ICANN demonstrates high standards in its execution of the IANA Functions
ICANN successfully completed two independent Service Organisation Control (SOC) audits of the systems and processes it uses to execute the IANA functions for 2014. SOC audits, using a methodology developed jointly by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, help ensure that ICANN has the appropriate internal controls in place to meet availability, processing integrity and security service levels for the IANA functions. Read more about achievements related to ICANN's execution of the IANA functions: http://goo.gl/JEftIK

In Other Words...

IANA STEWARDSHIP TRANSITION & ENHANCING ICANN ACCOUNTABILITY

See our community participation in numbers. Click on the image below to download the infographic.

We Need You...

Seeking host for ICANN Meeting in 2017

By rotation, ICANN60 will be held in Asia Pacific from 28 October – 3 November 2017. Following the new ICANN Meeting Strategy approved by the Board last November, it will be Meeting C, with these space requirements. If you're interested to be a host, please submit your proposal by **30 June 2015** via this online form: Expression of Interest to Host an ICANN Meeting

Fellowship application round opens for ICANN 54

Application for ICANN Fellowship is now open for participants to join us at ICANN54 in Dublin, Ireland, in October. Closing date is 15 May 2015. Details on the Fellowship program and how to apply here.

What's new?

Addition to APAC team

We welcome a new member to the APAC team, Tammy Yeow who joined us on 20 April 2015 as Lead Customer Service Analyst.

Tammy is a new member of the Customer Service team reporting to Michaela Quinzy. Based in Singapore, she is responsible for responding to customer service inquiries, resolving complex customer problems and executing a broad array of tasks and processes.

Regional Engagement Calendar

Dates	Events	Market
3-6 May	Freedom Online Coalition	*Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*
8 May	Thailand Email Address Internationalisation Workshop	*Bangkok, Thailand*
14 May	India Internet Governance Summit 2015	*New Delhi, India*
17-24 May	Bangladesh Network Operators Group (bdNOG) Conference	*Bangladesh*
21 May	Regional Roundtable on Rethinking the Digital Economy	*Jakarta, Indonesia*
21 May	WIPO Singapore Summer School 2015	*Singapore*
25 May - 5 Jun	IDN Southeast Asia Roadshow	*Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos*
29 May	Korean Registrar Outreach	*Seoul, South Korea*
4-11 Jun	ISOC INET Conference	*Colombo, Sri Lanka*
15-17 June	8th APT Policy & Regulatory Forum for the Pacific	*Nuku'alofa, Tonga*

For details on events, please refer to this calendar our website.

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